

**Remarks**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. No claims have been amended or added. Thus, claims 1-26, 29-31 are pending, of which 1, 7, 13, 17, 25 and 29 are independent.

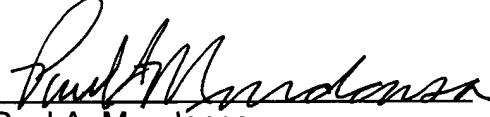
Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-26 and 29-31 are in condition for allowance.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 12, 2004

  
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